

VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

On Saturday, July 29th, at half-past one o'clock, the Queen, Prince Albert, and a select suite, arrived in New Palace-yard, in two plain carriages, for the purpose of visiting the new Houses of Parliament, and which are now in a state of rapid progression. The royal party were joined at the gate of the works by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Augusta of Saxo Coburg Gotha, and his Serene Highness Prince Leopold, who had but just left the exhibition of cartoons. No preparations had been made to receive the royal visitors, although they were expected. On Friday his Royal Highness Prince Albert honoured Mr. Barry, the architect, with an interview, and informed that gentleman of her Majesty's intention, but at the same time begged it to be distinctly understood that, as the visit would be private, the labour of the workmen should not be suspended, or in any way interfered with, and these instructions were implicitly obeyed. The Queen and her suite were received in the Speaker's court by Mr. Barry, the architect, and Mr. Grissell, who with his partner, Mr. Peto, are the contractors. The royal party were first conducted through the Speaker's court to the river terrace. The splendid view that this noble terrace affords was not lost to the royal party; her Majesty especially remarked upon it. The Queen's attention was next directed by Mr. Barry to the river frontage, the whole of which is so rich in architectural embellishments. Her Majesty, as indeed did the entire party, greatly admired the heraldic sculpture. From the terrace the Queen, Prince, and suite were conducted to the sculpture and model rooms. Here there were many objects that occupied her Majesty's attention. A model of the new House of Lords was shown to her Majesty, with which she was so much pleased that the royal wish was expressed that duplicates of the ornamental parts might be taken in plaster and forwarded to the palace. The Queen also inspected the various descriptions of stone of which the new houses are built. The royal party proceeded from the sculpture and model rooms to the south and north wings, where the statues of the Saxon kings and queens, in niches, occupied the royal attention for a considerable time. From the south wing the Queen and suite were escorted to the Victoria Tower, and thence through the cloisters and crypt of St. Stephen's to the present House of Commons, and the exceedingly plain appearance of the interior caused her Majesty to remark that it was wholly unbecoming the high purposes to which it was appropriated. The House of Lords was next visited; and then Dr. Reid's Experimental Room. Dr. Reid was in attendance, and minutely explained to the Queen and suite the process proposed to be adopted in the ventilation and warming of the new Houses of Parliament. The Queen, previous to leaving the works, was pleased to express her high approbation of the present appearance of the new Houses of Parliament, and acknowledged in flattering terms the attentions of Mr. Barry, and Mr. Grissell, the contractor. This was the Queen's first visit to the house, and it occupied about an hour and a half. Her Majesty appeared in excellent health.

Literature.

Tales of the Colonies; or, the Adventures of an Emigrant. Edited by a late COLONIAL MAGISTRATE. In three volumes. London: Saunders and Oiley, 1843.

This work has the merit, now, indeed, unusual, of novelty; novelty in matter, novelty in treatment. Of all the countries which the British merchant visits, the adventurer has explored, there are none concerning which it is so difficult to obtain faithworthy information, from books or from men, as the two penal colonies of Australia. Like the convicts, to whose enforced labour they owe so much, these settlements appear to be transported beyond the care or curiosity of civilized communities. Neither French travellers, who regard the antipodes as the legitimate heritage of France, without, however, troubling themselves to make out the title; nor German tourists, who love to expend labour and enquiry on any thing which the rest of the world may concur in neglecting; nor Russian emissaries, whose impertinence is as surprising as their ubiquity, condescend to trouble themselves with the social condition of a people destined, peradventure, one day to assure peace to the world by counterbalancing the indomitable power of the American Union. That the theme would not have proved barren there is in the work before us ample proof. It

describes, indeed, the adventures of an agricultural settler only, and this at a period that in relation to the growth of a new country must be considered remote; nevertheless, it is the most interesting and most instructive work in its class that has appeared since Mr. Catlin first startled thinking men with an account of all that remains—we should, unfortunately, say remained—of the red man in North America. Not, unlike the work of Mr. Catlin is it in other respects; in the nervous simplicity of style, and the internal evidence which it leaves of its own usefulness.

The book professes to set forth the recollections of a man who left England, where he had been a sort of half-farmer near London, soon after the termination of the late war, and proceeded to Van Diemen's Land in hope of bettering his fortune. It details the adventures which might have befallen anyone so circumstanced, from the time when he set out to look for land which he might reclaim, down to the commencement of a period which, it is evident to the reader, must end in prosperity. Herein we read of settlers, convicts, aboriginal savages, and those far worse than savages, the bushrangers, for with each class does the emigrant come in contact; of climate and soil, of pasture, wood and river; and of the living things, ministering unto man, with which they abound. On these subjects, however, it is not our purpose to dwell; there is a chapter in the form of a letter to a friend in England, who is supposed to ask counsel respecting the prudence of emigrating, that has far greater practical value. From this chapter we lay some extracts before the reader.

REASONS FOR EMIGRATING.

"As to your inquiries about the prudence of emigration, and of bringing your family to this colony, I will reply to them as well as I can, and at least you may be certain that I would not wilfully mislead you. But I may, perhaps, be imbued with the feeling which one acquires in this place, and I suppose it is the same in all colonies; I mean, the desire which one conceives of inducing others to come out. This feeling, I think, is often prompted by the consideration that all new-comers help to keep up the price of stock and to increase the value of land; for the more inhabitants there are in a country, the more valuable stock and land must necessarily become. I don't know how far such a feeling may possess me in writing to you this letter; but I trust that I am actuated by a better motive; by the sincere desire of preventing you from gradually eating up your remaining capital in England, and of assisting you to realise an independence in this part of the globe for yourself and your family. Mind, I do not advise any one to quit an established country, in which all the arts of civilization and rebovement are in full operation, and to change an old country for a new one, if his means will allow him to remain on the soil where he was born, with a fair prospect of settling his children well in life; for that is the main point after all. It seems to me that, voluntarily to remove to a new colony is like putting yourself back in the age of the world for some hundreds of years, by relinquishing the point of civilization and progress reached by the old country. I regard emigration merely as a question of necessity; and taking for granted that such a necessity has arisen in your case, according to the expressions in your letter, I will give you my reasons for advising you not to waste your time and money by useless delay. The great inducement for your leaving England for this colony is the certainty of gaining an independence here for your family, which it seems to be a very uncertain matter at home. Perfect ease is out of the question in this, as well as in every other country; but a country life may be passed here very pleasantly, and every day society is getting better. You can easily imagine that there cannot be a very numerous society in a country where, of necessity, settlers must live widely apart, in order to have room for the breed of the sheep and cattle; but the colonists here are of a good class, and as they are all of an active and adventurous turn of mind—as their coming here proves—they are always pleasant companions, full of thoughts and inventions, to which their position incessantly incites them."

BREEDING OF SHEEP.

"I don't think a tillage farm the best pursuit to engage in if you have capital enough to buy stock. Sheep and cattle increase of themselves with little trouble and with little expense; and, as the land they graze over costs nothing to bring into pasture, the profits are proportionably great. I grow as much wheat as I want for my own use, and I sell the rest to those round about, to new settlers and others who do not grow wheat, or not enough for their own consumption. But cattle and sheep are the best things to invest your money in; both very

profitable, but I think sheep the best of the two, because they are the easiest to manage, and their wool is sure to be a valuable and saleable commodity, in the event of the increase of the flocks, and birds on the island causing meat to be too cheap to make it worth while to breed them for the carcass.

"I have made a calculation of the probable increase of a flock of five hundred ewes, which may be useful to you and perhaps to others who may think of emigrating to these colonies; but you must observe that this calculation of increase is made on the supposition that the sheep are allowed to increase; for if the emigrant is obliged to eat his breeding stock, the result would be, of course, very different. In order to arrive at the largest possible increase, it is necessary that the emigrant should possess sufficient capital to support himself in the interim; for if he eats his flocks, he will be in the same condition as the farmer who is obliged to eat his seed-wheat; he can have no crop; and every ewe, and, indeed, by every wether that the grazier eats he destroys the compound-interest profit which would otherwise accrue to him—for he might exchange his wether for a breeding ewe—from the increase in a geometrical ratio of the breeding animal. The sheep-farmer ought to be a sort of stoic for some years: he must be content to live in a humble cottage instead of a large house; and he must eat and drink frugally; carefully avoiding the seductive expenses of the town, and the many temptations to lead him from his grand object. I must confess that I have never seen such a resolution completely carried out; but my calculation of the possible increase of sheep is beyond a question an accurate statement of what might be done by any one determined to do it.

"As to diseases of sheep, we have no such things here; of course, if the sheep are neglected to be sheared at the proper season, their coats will hang about them in rags, presenting a very unseemly appearance, and they will shew the usual symptoms of disease; but a little tobacco quickly sets them to rights; and with ordinary care there is no fear of losing a single sheep from disease in a dozen years. Among the great advantages attendant on the breeding of sheep is this freedom of disease. They are not touched by the fly; they never have the foot-rot; and are not affected with the scab, so common in England, except from neglect. No extra care is requisite in the lambing season; and every ewe is certain to produce three lambs in two years; and their wool is always a saleable article either here or in England."

There follow several pages filled with calculations as to the increase and produce of a flock of five hundred ewes in six years and a half. The result is thus stated:—

"At the end of the six and a half years' course, therefore, the account will stand thus:

OUTLAY.

" 500 ewes	£ 500
Expense of shepherds	2,360
Their incidental expenses	700
Merino rams	1,800
	£5,360

RECEIPTS.

" Sales of wool, clear of all expenses £ 5,730	
17,000 sheep, at 20s. per head	17,000
	£22,730

"With respect to my valuation of the 17,000 sheep, at 20s. per head, at the end of six and a half years, I may as well take that estimate as any other, for if, on the one hand, their value may be less from the increase of flocks on the island, on the other hand, their value may be greater from the increased influx of emigrants to these colonies, and very likely to new colonies on the western coast of the continental island, who will buy sheep from this colony. But supposing the emigrant were to disregard the increase of his flocks beyond the 17,000 which I have enumerated; supposing he were to kill his lambs as soon as they were born, he would still have the wool of 17,000 sheep to depend on, producing at least 5,0000l. a year.

"These prospects appear very flattering, but the calculations are strictly correct. I am shewing what may be done with sufficient capital, and that capital not much; such a capital, indeed, as would not be sufficient to enable a man to enter into any extensive operations in farming or in merchandizing in the old country. The reason of these great advantages to be derived from sheep-farming in these colonies is obvious enough. You have the land for nothing; there is no house rent; no taxes; no rates; no pens wanted for the sheep, summer or winter the genial nature of the climate allowing them to lie out in the open air during the whole year; there is no artificial food necessary for winter; sheep are subject to no diseases, and any ordinary person, whether used to sheep, and